

Message Text

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46

ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 ARA-16 NEA-14 ISO-00 EURE-00 SAM-01

SAJ-01 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 IO-14 CIAE-00

PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01

PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20 OMB-01 SY-04 A-01 OPR-02 NIC-01

ACDA-19 TRSE-00 COME-00 EB-11 LAB-06 SIL-01 DRC-01

/188 W

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O R 061612Z MAY 74

FM AMEMBASSY LISBON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 9540

INFO AMEMBASSY BRASILIA

AMEMBASSY CONAKRY

AMEMBASSY DAKAR

AMCONSUL LOURENCO MARQUES

AMCONSUL LUANDA

AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

AMEMBASSY MADRID

AMCONSUL OPORTO

AMCONSUL PONTA DELGADA

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

AMEMBASSY RABAT

USCINCEUR

CINCLANT

DIA

COMUSFORAZ

USMISSION NATO

C O N F I D E N T I A L LISBON 1793

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT PO

SUBJ: JUNTA WARNS AGAINST INSTITUTIONAL UPHEAVALS AS

TAKEOVERS CONTINUE

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REF: LISBON 1764

SUMMARY: SEIZURES OF INSTITUTIONS BY EMPLOYEES CONTINUED OVER WEEKEND BUT MET STIFFENING RESISTANCE BY MANAGEMENT OFFICIALS IN SOME CASES. JUNTA HAS TOUGHENED ITS WARNINGS AGAINST "INTERFERENCE WITH CURRENT HIERARCHIES" AT PLACES OF WORK. END SUMMARY.

1. WELL ORGANIZED EMPLOYEE GROUPS HAVE CONTINUED TO FORCE OUT MANAGEMENT AND TO TAKE OVER UTILITIES, MEDIA, SYNDICATES, AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT AND OTHER BODIES IN PORTUGAL, ALTHOUGH RESISTANCE BY OFFICIALS TO GIVE IN WITHOUT WORD FROM JUNTA AND LATTER'S WARNINGS AGAINST PRECIPITOUS ACTIONS APPEAR TO HAVE SLOED THINGS DOWN A BIT. HOWEVER, SINCE REFTEL SENT, TELEPHONE COMPANY, LISBON'S CENTRAL MARKET, AND SOME LOCAL GOVERNMENT AND OTHER BODIES HAVE BEEN TAKEN OVER BY EMPLOYEE GROUPS. SCENE AT TELEPHONE COMPANY APPEARS TYPICAL: LARGE, WELL-ORGANIZED CROWD, UNDER DISCIPLINE OF LEADERS, ASSEMBLED AT COMPANY'S HEADQUARTERS, SHOUTING FOR REPLACEMENT OF "FASCIST" DIRECTORS. MILITARY THEN APPEARED AND CONDUCTED DIRECTORS TO SAFETY. IT UNCLEAR WHO NOW CONTROLS COMPANY.

2. WARNINGS FROM JUNTA OVER EXPULSION OF OFFICIAL FROM PUBLIC SERVICE BODIES REACHED CLIMAX MAY 5 WITH JUNTA STATEMENT THAT SUCH ACTS WILL BE CONSIDERED "INSUBORDINATION AND CRIMES AGAINST THE ARMED FORCES MOVEMENT" AND WILL BE VIGOROUSLY INVESTIGATED". THIS STATEMENT HAS RECEIVED MAXIMUM PUBLICITY.

3. PORTUGUESE COMMUNIST PARTY HAS ISSUED WARNING AGAINST SEIZURE OF PUBLIC INSTITUTIONS, SPECIFICALLY THOSE OF LOCAL GOVERNMENTS.

4. THERE IS WIDESPREAD CONCERN AMONG BUSINESSMEN (AND SOME OTHERS) IN LISBON THAT EVENTS OF PAST WEEK MIGHT LEAD TO ECONOMIC DISORDER. AMCONSUL OPORTO REPORTS THIS CONCERN PARTICULARLY ACUTE AMONG FOREIGN BUSINESSMEN IN NORTHERN PORTUGAL. EMBASSY AND AMCONSUL OPORTO DETECT
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CONSIDERABLE FEAR OVER INFLUENCE OF LEFT AND GENERAL APPREHENSION OVER FUTURE.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
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